



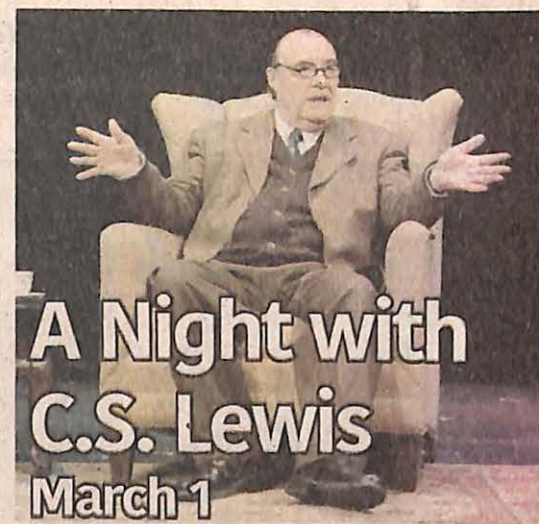
The Tom-Tom



A Student Publication of
EAST CENTRAL
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume 68, Number 4

March 2017



**A Night with
 C.S. Lewis**
 March 1

EC earns high marks in student success, progress

In accordance with Mississippi House Bill No. 1071 from the 2010 legislative session, East Central Community College in Decatur has released its 2015 Community College Performance Profile, or Report Card. The bill created an Education Achievement Council which was established to set education achievement goals for institutions of higher learning and community and junior colleges in the state and to assist in monitoring progress towards those goals through the preparation of annual institutional and state report cards.

The Community College Report Card, designed to reflect the unique mission of community colleges, incorporates mea-

sures closely aligned with the Voluntary Framework of Accountability developed by the American Association of Community Colleges. Therefore, each report card includes information for the specific community/junior college, along with corresponding figures for the state system, which includes all 15 Mississippi community/junior colleges. Information contained in the report includes student enrollment, degrees awarded, student success, student retention, student progress, workforce development information, and GED® and adult basic education statistics, as well as enrollment and success in development or remedial coursework (college readiness).

In the 2015 Community College Report Card, ECCC compared well against state averages in numerous categories. East Central achieved elite status in Total Student Success and Student Progress, or progression towards graduation of full-time, first-time students through two years. ECCC also saw a dramatic increase in completions from 419 to 576 over the previous year.

Overall graduation rate, retention of students in for-credit programs, number of students served through workforce training activities, and developmental mathematics students completing College Algebra were other areas in which ECCC was among the leaders in the

state.

In addition, East Central had a positive employment impact in its five-county district of Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties, ranking high in the state in the increase in the number of workforce trainees finding employment and in wages earned by certificate completers.

The 2015 Performance Profile (Report Card) for ECCC can be found on the college's website at www.eccc.edu/consumer-information. In addition, a copy of the 2015 Performance Profile can be obtained from the Office of the President.

New tennis courts officially open with ribbon cutting

Representatives of East Central Community College and the local communities gathered Feb. 14 to officially open the new Tennis Complex on the Decatur campus.

A ribbon cutting marked the official opening of the new complex located at the north side of campus between the softball and baseball facilities.

Following the ribbon cutting, the ECCC men's and women's tennis teams immediately held their first practices on the new courts while attendees toured the complex.

A fundraising effort is underway to fund the construction of a building near the main entrance of the new Tennis Complex to house men's and women's locker rooms, coach's office, team meeting room, concessions area, and restrooms.

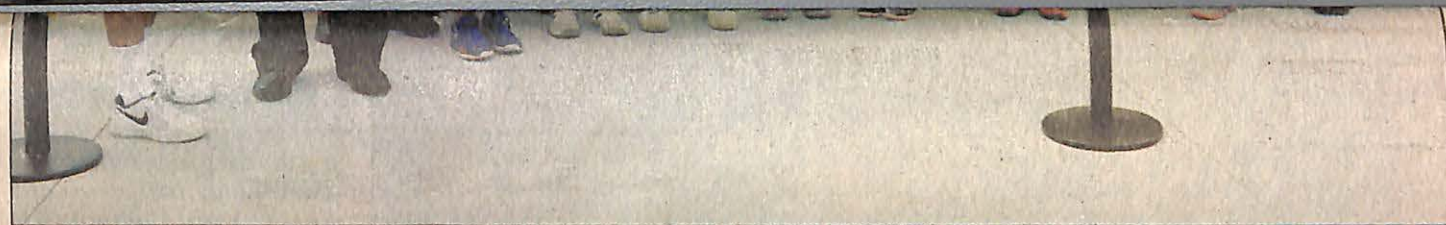
"Today marks a very special day in the history of our institution," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "Not only does this new complex represent progress, I believe it represents what we stand for here at East Central and that is the EC Way."



lighted courts to serve the ECCC men's and women's varsity tennis teams, as well as the campus and local communities. The facility includes parking and spectator areas, which were very limited at the current four-court tennis complex on campus that was originally built in 1969.

that these courts are something we can all be proud of and I am confident based on several conversations with community college presidents across the state that we are the envy of all tennis playing institutions in Mississippi. I'm also sure that these courts will

See COURTS, PAGE 6



Members of the ECCC men's and women's tennis teams help cut the ribbon to open the new East Central Community College Tennis Complex Feb. 14, along with head tennis coach Jay Pacelli (far left) and ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

EC PHOTO



Percussion Class: Dr. Robert Damm, Professor of Percussion at MSU, was on campus recently hosting a drum circle class. Students, faculty and staff members participated in the interactive class held in the Band Hall in the Vickers Fine Arts Center. At right, Anastasia Crout, Dr. Damm and Katie Ware show off some of the percussion instruments.

EC PHOTO



McCool, Fisher announced as annual HEADWAE honorees

Sophomore Katie McCool of Louisville and science instructor Sharon Fisher of Meridian represented East Central Community College at the 2016-17 Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program Feb. 21 in Jackson.

The annual HEADWAE observance was established by the Mississippi Legislature to honor academically talented students and faculty members from each of the 36 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges. McCool is a chemistry major and a

graduate of Winston Academy where she was valedictorian, honor society president, a Mississippi Scholar and member of the Hall of Fame.

At ECCC, the President's List scholar serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, treasurer of the sophomore class and is a member of the Baptist Student Union Council.

She is the daughter of Robert and Pam McCool of Louisville.



MCCOOL

Fisher has been employed at the college since 2002.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and the educational specialist degree from Livingston University (now University of West Alabama).

She has served 31 years in the field of education after working as a developmental chemist for Vanity Fair for five years.

She and her husband, Chris, reside in



FISHER

Meridian. She has one daughter, four step-children and two grandchildren.

Honorees were invited to the State Capitol where they were welcomed by Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and recognized in each legislative chamber.

A luncheon was also held at the Jackson Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson, during which each student and faculty honoree was recognized in front of their guests, institution leaders, corporate sponsors and legislators.

In addition to the public recognition, a booklet was published featuring photos and biographical sketches of each honoree.

STRIKE A POSE



MIRIAM SANCHEZ
Freshman - Forest
Nursing

■ **Why did you choose to attend EC?**

Because it was very beneficial to me and I wanted to keep the tradition going.

■ **What is your favorite thing about EC?**

The teachers.

■ **What is your favorite meal in the cafeteria?**

The Earthquake/Hurricane Cake.

■ **Who is your favorite faculty/staff member?**

Why?

Ms. LeJeune because she really cares about her students and she makes sure you actually learn the material.

■ **What is the worst thing about college life?**

The tuition because I have to pay it out of pocket.

■ **What is your most embarrassing moment at EC?**

I went into the wrong class my first day.

■ **What extracurricular activities are you involved in?**

Band and colorguard.

■ **What is your best memory at EC?**

Making memories with my old and new friends!

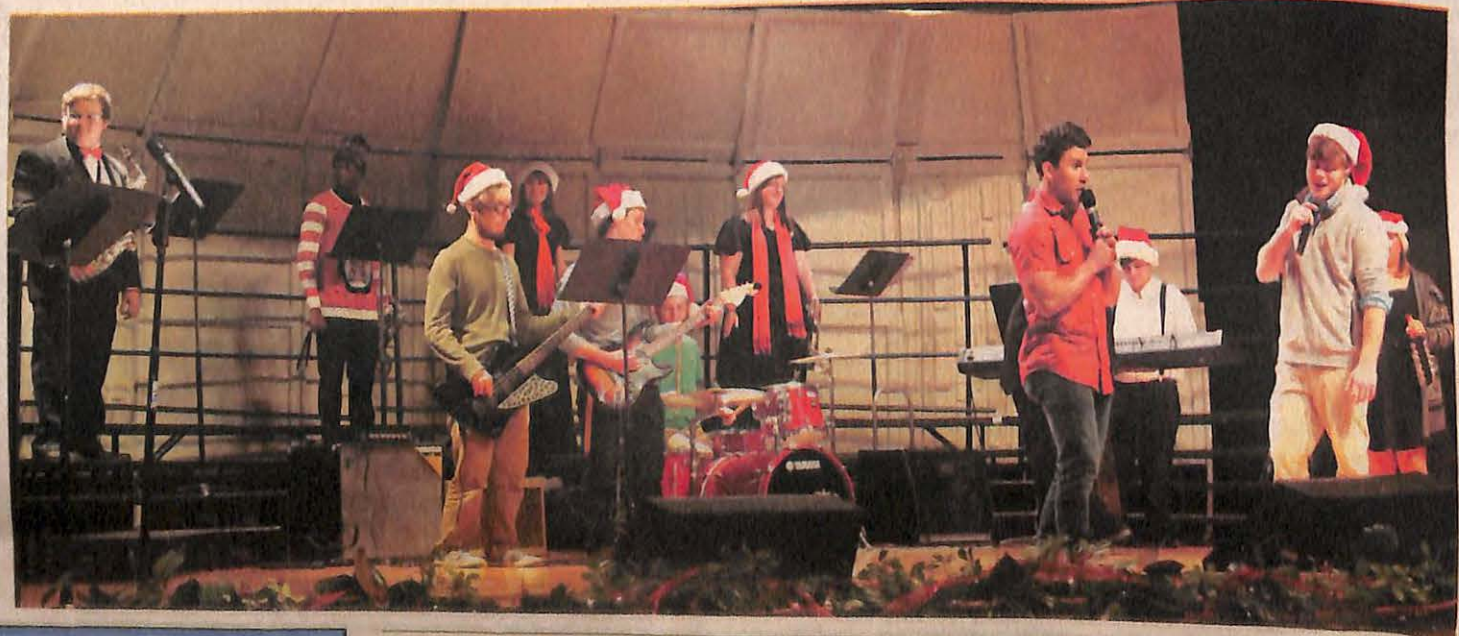
■ **What are your plans after EC?**

Get a Nursing job for a year or two and then go into the medical program at Ole Miss.



EC PHOTOS

The East Central Community College Fine Arts Department presented its annual Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular in November. The Christmas Spectacular served as a fundraiser for the Cultural Arts Series and featured performances by various East Central musical groups, including the Collegians rock-n-roll band, Concert Choir, Voce a cappella vocal ensemble, Wall O' Sound Band, and various other ensembles.



FEATURE TEACHER

CHRISTY FERGUSON

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meridian.msstate.edu



**MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™**

FEATURE TEACHER

CHRISTY FERGUSON

Christy Ferguson is a Business and Office Technology Instructor at East Central Community College. She teaches Introduction to Keyboarding, Introduction to Microsoft Office, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, QuickBooks, Career Readiness, Social Media Management, Desktop Publishing, and BOT Externship and Seminar.



■ **What made you want to become a teacher?** I had several teachers in high school that influenced me. Especially the teachers that taught business classes.

■ **What is the highest degree you hold?** Master's in Instructional Technology

■ **Why did you choose to teach Business Office Technology?** I always enjoyed my business classes in high school, especially my BCT class at the Winston-Louisville Career and Technical Center. Once I completed high school I knew I would enjoy teaching in the business field.

■ **Where all have you taught?** I have taught at Central Academy and at East Mississippi Community College.

■ **What is your favorite thing about EC?** My favorite thing about EC is the people I share my day

with, that would be my co-workers on campus and the students that enter my classroom.

■ **What are some of your hobbies outside of teaching?** I enjoy keeping a family scrapbook of yearly activities. Years ago I started scrapbooking; currently I have embraced using technology and creating digital scrapbooks.

■ **What is one thing on your bucket list?** My bucket list probably looks a little different than most. On top of my list it would be to serve as a volunteer with Samari-

tan's Purse or Eight Days of Hope. In Galatians 5:13 it states, "You my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather serve one another humbly in love." The majority of the items on my bucket list include serving others. My heavenly Father has blessed me so much, therefore I want to be a blessing to others.

■ **What are your plans for Spring Break?** No major plans for Spring Break, just relax and enjoy my time off with family.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Submit stories, photos or ideas
to athompson@eccc.edu

ECCC's Culinary Arts Technology program ranked third in the state

The Culinary Arts Technology program at East Central Community College was ranked No. 3 among all such programs in the state of Mississippi in a recent report by Best Choice Schools.

The rankings, published at BestChoiceSchools.com, include the top 10 best culinary programs in Mississippi that offer a variety of certificates and degrees in the culinary arts and related fields, a variety of coursework, a low student-to-faculty ratio, a professional work setting, and internship opportunities.

Restaurant and food service is a \$4.4 billion industry in Mississippi and employs over 123,300 professionals, according to

BestChoiceSchools.com

ECCC offers an associate of science degree in Culinary Arts Technology, as well as technical and career certificates. The program provides a solid foundation in the methods and science of cooking through exposure to classical, American, and international cuisine, as well as the art of baking and pastries. Special emphasis is placed on culinary tools, equipment, techniques, and specialty ingredients. Coursework includes hands-on lab instruction by a chef instructor in a commercial kitchen.

For more information on Culinary Arts Technology at ECCC, visit the website at www.eccc.edu/

culinary-arts-technology or contact Chef Barry Karrh at bkarrh@eccc.edu or 601-635-6252.

According to BestChoiceSchools.com, Best Choice Schools is the Internet's premier online resource for obtaining the latest information relevant to making the right choice on selecting a college and academic degree program. The website shares knowledge from hand-picked expert contributing authors on the nation's top-ranked accredited, affordable colleges to aid in a student's quest for choosing the best education path that meets his or her career interests and goals.

ECCC to host artist Sarah Teasley

East Central Community College will host a presentation by artist Sarah Teasley at 2:25 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on campus. The presentation is part of the college's 2017 Cultural Arts Series.

Teasley received her BFA from Delta State University and her MFA from the University of Mississippi. In addition to a formal education, she worked as an Artist in Residence for Burns Pottery in Natchez and completed two internships with sculptor Beth Cavener.

Sarah exhibits her work nationally through juried competitions, Oxford

Treehouse Gallery and Attic Gallery. She has also been published in 500 Figures in Clay Vol. 2 by Lark Crafts. She currently lives in Raymond where she teaches art full time at Hinds Community College.

Additional Cultural Arts Series events include:

- March 30-April 1 – Encore Players present "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," 7 p.m. nightly, Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium, Tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets, call 601-635-2111

- April 10 – The Collegians, 7 p.m., Huff Auditorium, free admission

- April 11 – Delta State University Jazz Band

Concert, 2:25 p.m., Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium, free admission

- April 20 – EC Band Showcase, 6:30 p.m., Huff Auditorium, free admission

- April 25 – Spring Choir Concert, 7 p.m., Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium, free admission

The Cultural Arts Series began as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community.

For more information, contact Chas Evans, Fine Arts Division chair, at 601-635-6227 or e-mail cevans@eccc.edu.



EC PHOTOS

Todd Smith presented a magic show in Huff Auditorium Jan. 24. Students were asked to participate in the show and Smith also went into the audience to perform some of his tricks. Along with magic, he performed some balance acts and juggling. Above, Chas Evans participates in a trick. At right, Alex Moore assists on stage.



**Students Must Wear
IDs at ALL TIMES.**

CAREER CENTER

Pottery in Natchez and completed two internships with sculptor Beth Cavener.

Sarah exhibits her work nationally through juried competitions, Oxford

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• April 10 – The Collegians, 7 p.m., Huff Auditorium, free admission

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at the community. For more information, contact Chas Evans, Fine Arts Division chair, at 601-635-6227 or e-mail cevans@eccc.edu.

Students Must Wear IDs at ALL TIMES.



EC PHOTO

Surgical Technology graduates: Graduates of East Central Community College's Surgical Technology Program received special recognition at the annual pinning ceremony held recently on campus. Students who completed the 12-month program and their respective hometowns include (first row, from left) A.J. Griffin, Newton; Savannah Hillhouse, Decatur; Ivy Foster, Carthage; Whitney Ainsworth, Raleigh; and Felicia Jones, Meridian; and (back row, from left) Tanya Willis, Decatur; Kayla Alexander, Philadelphia; Tori Franklin, Morton; Cayley Branning and Amber Hill, both of Philadelphia; Myeshia Dukes, Forest; and Sharmi Williams, Noxapater. LeAnn Shirley and Kristie Pilgrim serve as instructors. For more information contact Dr. Sheryl Allen, dean of healthcare education, at 601-635-6294.



EC PHOTO

Nursing skills rodeo: Students in the nursing program recently participated in a skills rodeo and dressed the part while testing their skills. Hunter Fortenberry checks vitals on a mannequin.

CAREER CENTER

The Career Center provides the support that ECCC students need to be successful in choosing a career path, job and internship opportunities, and transferring to a four-year college or university.

SERVICES

- Career assessments to help students with career choices
- Assistance with choosing a major or program of study
- University transfer information, and assisting with applications and scholarship opportunities
- Resume writing and interview tips
- Information on area job openings

HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LOCATION

2nd floor of the Eddie M. Smith Student Union Building in the Student Services Offices

CONTACT

Romonica Evans

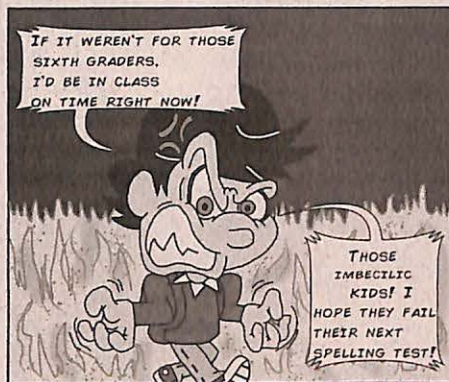
Career Center Director/Recruiter

601-635-6300

WHIPPERSNAPPERS



DENIAL



ANGER



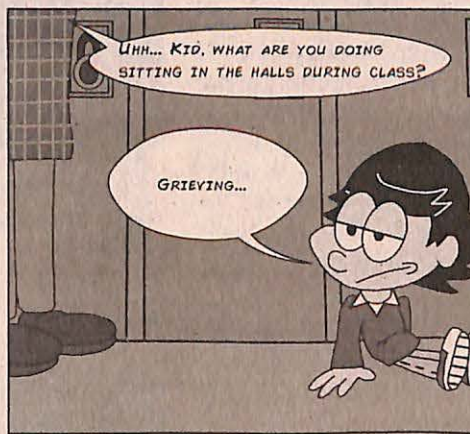
Bargaining



Depression



Acceptance



By Caleb Welch

A WORD FROM OUR EDITOR

Technology: Building bridges or burning them?

As I walk across campus on any given morning, I'm greeted by a sad sight: Green grass sparkling with dew, birds chirping and flying in the sky, a stray dog running away from janitors shaking brooms, and a number of other beautiful examples of Mother Nature hard at work.

Now, this sight is not sad because of nature itself, rather it is sad because I also see many people walking through the same world as me, but they do not see the world beyond their little multi-colored rectangles. Now, on the surface, it seems as though each one of us is absorbed in our own world, glued to the screens as we are.

However, as a victim of technology myself, I would like to propose the argument to the people in general. Is advancing technology bringing us



RYAN LOVE

uals together through the power of the internet.

Some, such as MeetMe, POF, and Tinder, are dating sites meant to help people who normally would have never even seen one another, start a relationship. Others like Fun Run, Bubble Bash, and Words with Friends were made to allow friends the chance to play and interact with one another, without the hassle of actually going to

So it would seem like an open-and-shut case then, marking up a win for the techies. However, there is more to consider. What about those like myself, who are quite introverted and are not very socially active? I have Snapchat, MeetMe, and FaceBook, but I never use them.

When I am in the world, I choose not to keep my face on my "baby computer," instead staying alert of my surroundings. While people like this are few and far between, they are out there, and to them, the grasp of technology is a deadly one, forcing us to conform and keep up with new devices, or be left behind by the

rest. Now, for the purposes of this article, I have limited the argument to phones and other such devices simply for time's sake.

There are many more arguments to be made on both sides, but I cannot delve into all of them here. I simply wish to put the thought in your lovely little heads, dear readers, so that the next time you reach for your phone when you're with friends, you may recall this dilemma and reconsider. Until next time, my friends, this is Easlen Ryan Love signing out. Stay safe!

— Easlen Ryan Love
Tom-Tom Editor

ECCC again tabbed as Military Friendly® school

Impacting lives for nearly 90 years

The EC Way



By Billy W. Stewart, Ph.D.

After almost five years serving as president, I'm convinced that East Central Community College has impacted more lives for the better than any community or junior college in the nation. This special place, since its founding nearly 90 years ago, has not only impacted the lives of those who attended and graduated, but those graduates, in turn, have positively impacted the lives of those around them and made our state, our country, and even our world a better place in which to live.

As we rapidly approach the end of another academic year at ECCC, I trust this special place has impacted you as well. Our No. 1 priority is to ensure that you leave here with a degree or certificate and better prepared to continue your education or start a career. We are among the best in the nation in doing that, with record graduating classes each of the past two years, and with anticipation of another record class when we hold our 2017 Commencement on May 5 at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

One need to look no further than the pages of this issue of *The Tom-Tom* to see how East Central is impacting the lives of students. We continue to be blessed at ECCC in so many ways as exciting things are happening on campus and in our classrooms. I hope you will always take advantage of all the opportunities we offer for you to grow mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually during your time as a student here. If you do, then I have no doubt that your life will be changed forever, and that you will change the lives of others as you move on to that next step in your journey.

When I think of lives being impacted by East Central, I need not look past the door of my own home. Some of you know or will remember my oldest son, Stephen, a 2016 graduate of ECCC. He is now a resident of Hattiesburg and a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi. While he was enrolled at East Central, I witnessed the impact that our college had on his life daily. When I asked him to describe it for me, he said that East Central was a perfect transition from high school to college. He said that he was most impacted by great teachers who cared about the success of all of their students; small class sizes where he not only got to know the instructor, but other students in the class as well; and the numerous opportunities for involvement in activities and events at the College. When he described his experiences here, he used the term "family" several times. I think that term best describes who and what we are and have been at ECCC, and how we have been able to impact so many lives over these almost 90 years, including yours.

I am blessed to be a member of this special family that makes such a positive difference in the lives of our students, our employees, and our communities every day! I am also grateful that you are a member of it.

itself, rather it is sad because I also see many people walking through the same world as me, but they do not see the world beyond their little multi-colored rectangles. Now, on the surface, it seems as though each one of us is absorbed in our own world, glued to the screens as we are.

However, as a victim of technology myself, I would like to propose the argument to the people in general. Is advancing technology bringing us closer together or dividing us? Those in the latter camp would say that by being so absorbed in our phones, we are distancing ourselves from everyone around us. In some cases, this much is true, however, some of the most downloaded and used apps are social media apps, applications designed to bring individ-

RYAN LOVE

uals together through the power of the internet.

Some, such as MeetMe, POF, and Tinder, are dating sites meant to help people who normally would have never even seen one another, start a relationship. Others like Fun Run, Bubble Bash, and Words with Friends were made to allow friends the chance to play and interact with one another, without the hassle of actually going to see them. And of course, we shouldn't forget the phone's most basic use: talking and texting. I don't think I need to explain how this one brings us together. I mean, because of my phone, I get to talk to my mama everyday, which would otherwise be impossible because she lives an hour away.

puter," instead staying alert of my surroundings. While people like this are few and far between, they are out there, and to them, the grasp of technology is a deadly one, forcing us to conform and keep up with new devices, or be left behind by the

you reach for your phone when you're with friends, you may recall this dilemma and reconsider. Until next time, my friends, this is Easlen Ryan Love signing out. Stay safe!

— Easlen Ryan Love
Tom-Tom Editor

ECCC again tabbed as Military Friendly® school

East Central Community College in Decatur has been designated as a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs®, STEM Jobs, and Military Spouse magazines. It is the fifth consecutive year that ECCC has earned the Military Friendly® School designation.

ECCC is one of only five community colleges in Mississippi to earn the Military Friendly® designation for 2017.

First published in 2009, Military Friendly® Schools is a comprehensive resource provided to service members and their families to help them select the best college, university or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

Institutions earning Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media's proprietary survey. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and,

specifically, for student veterans.

More than 1,700 schools participated in the 2017 survey and 1,273 were awarded the designation.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart said he is "extremely proud" the college has again earned recognition as a Military Friendly® School.

"East Central Community College has a strong commitment to our country's men and women in the military as evidenced by being named a Military Friendly® School for the fifth year in a row," noted Stewart. "We will continue to provide high-quality programs and services to assist military personnel in meeting their educational goals at East Central."

ECCC is showcased with other 2017 Military Friendly® School in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools, special issues of G.I. Jobs® and Military Spouse magazines, and on military-friendly.com.

For more information regarding services provided military veterans at ECCC, contact Jessica Gibson in the Office of Admissions at 601-635-6392 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 392. The email address is jgibson@eccc.edu.

ern Mississippi. While he was enrolled at East Central, I witnessed the impact that our college had on his life daily. When I asked him to describe it for me, he said that East Central was a perfect transition from high school to college. He said that he was most impacted by great teachers who cared about the success of all of their students; small class sizes where he not only got to know the instructor, but other students in the class as well; and the numerous opportunities for involvement in activities and events at the College. When he described his experiences here, he used the term "family" several times. I think that term best describes who and what we are and have been at ECCC, and how we have been able to impact so many lives over these almost 90 years, including yours.

I am blessed to be a member of this special family that makes such a positive difference in the lives of our students, our employees, and our communities every day! I am also grateful that you are a member of the East Central family.

God bless you!

— Dr. Billy W. Stewart
ECCC President

FROM THE DESK OF DR. LEE

Get ready for spring

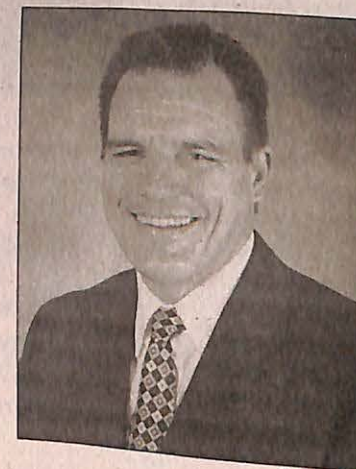
Spring Break (March 13-17) will be here before you know it! Make sure you are attending every class and studying hard, because the spring semester will fly by! Take advantage of all the various activities, but keep studying as your top priority.

Graduation should be your ultimate goal at ECCC. So persist and earn that diploma! You need it in today's world. Transferability is seamless, and the cost is so much more at four-year institutions so take all the courses you can at ECCC. If you need an additional class or two check out second intensive term traditional classes that begin today, March 1, and the second intensive term short-term online classes that begin on March 13. You can register at any time. Remember, dormitory residents, you must maintain 15 hours to stay in the dorms.

Advance Registration begins at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4, for SUMMER COURSES and FALL 2017 COURSES. Make sure you PAY your debt to the business office and REGISTER THE FIRST DAY to get the classes you need to graduate! They will fill up quickly so make an appointment with your advisor after Spring Break to be cleared to register.

Many events are scheduled, but I do want to highlight Spring Spree that will be conducted April 24 - 27. Get your teams together. See Dr. Walton (awalton@eccc.edu or 601-635-6213) for more information. Additionally, there is so much going on so I encourage you to get out of your dormitory room or your house if you live at home and attend some of the many athletic and extracurricular activities hosted on campus. Those are the times and events that you will remember.

If you have any questions or concerns let me know. Please let someone know if you are having problems. You can reach me at 635-6375 or e-mail rlee@eccc.edu. The student services' offices are located in the Eddie M. Smith Student Union.



DR. LEE

Students Must Wear IDs at ALL TIMES.

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of

East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss.

It is published by the Office of Public Information.

For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by Dr. Teresa Houston, Vice President for Instruction, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, thouston@eccc.edu.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 and ADA are coordinated by Dr. Randall Lee, Vice President for Student Services, Eddie M. Smith Student Union, Room 201, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6375, Fax: 601-635-3247, rlee@eccc.edu.

Adviser: Amy Thompson

Editor: Easlen Ryan Love

Co-Editor: Caleb Welch



Sincerely,
Randall E. Lee, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Services

STRIKE A POSE



SHANAGIA SIMS
Sophomore - Philadelphia
Pre-Nursing

■ **Why did you choose to attend EC?**

I chose EC because I felt it was best for my education.

■ **What is your favorite thing about EC?**

The freedom to choose how I wanted to have my classes.

■ **What is your favorite meal in the cafeteria?**

Fried fish Fridays.

■ **Who is your favorite faculty/staff member?**

Why?

Mrs. Lee because she has a wonderful personality and really gets involved with her students.

■ **What is the worst thing about college life?**

If you don't know how to balance studying with extra-curricular and social life it could be difficult.

■ **What is your most embarrassing moment at EC?**

I fell in a hole walking right behind my friends.

■ **What extracurricular activities are you involved in?**

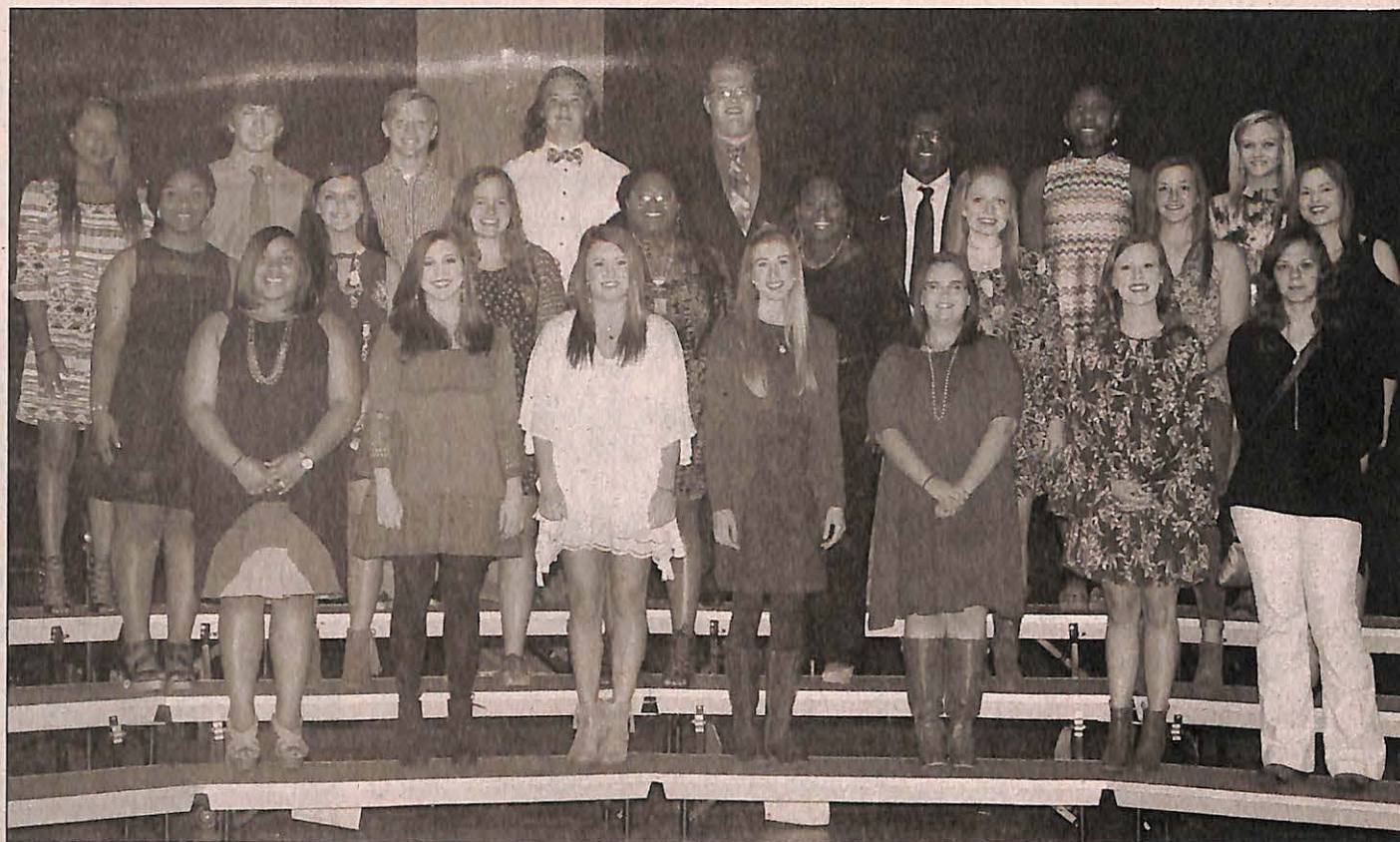
Band, Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Mu Tau, Art Club, Phi Beta Lambda.

■ **What is your best memory at EC?**

Meeting some extraordinary people.

■ **What are your plans after EC?**

I plan to attend the MUW or the University of Southern Mississippi and continue my bachelor's degree in nursing.



EC PHOTO

PTK inductees: Approximately 37 East Central Community College students were inducted into Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, during ceremonies held in November on the campus. To qualify for the prestigious organization, whose mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming, students must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree and must have a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. Director of Housing and Student Activities Dr. Amanda Walton, Mathematics Instructor Jenna Wright and Dean of Students James Miller serve as advisors. New inductees into Phi Theta Kappa at East Central Community College include (front row, from left) Hannah Bennett of Philadelphia, Lauryn Tucker of Pearl, Shelby Wilkerson of Lake, Sarah Laird of Meridian, Madeline LeBlanc of Union, Abby Ray of Louisville, and Rebekah Buckley of Decatur; (middle row, from left) Demetreuna Rankin of Forest, Olivia Cain of Hickory, Kenlynn Morgan of Hickory, Jala Hobson of Brandon, Shanagia Sims of Philadelphia, Hailey Morris of Union, Kayla Robertson of Neshoba, and Jessica Forrest of Decatur; and (back row, from left) Kiaa Haynes of Louisville, Logan Webb of Louisville, Jonathan Hall of Philadelphia, Cooper Smith of Philadelphia, Malcolm Chambers of Decatur, Larry Reed Jr. of Decatur, Kaylin McCree of Newton, and Kaitlin Withers of Carthage. Not pictured are: Sydney Breazeale of Philadelphia, Conner Buchanan of Philadelphia, Catherine Chisolm of French Camp, Mitchell Crenshaw of Philadelphia, William Fanning of Philadelphia, Chelsee Ferris of Philadelphia, Bryant Flake of Walnut Grove, Maria Hawks of Decatur, Kenzie Jenkins of Florence, Jordan Loper of Decatur, Jacinta Nonis of Philadelphia, Isiah Thomas of Jackson, Nathaniel Thorne of Decatur, and Branden Vick of Louisville.

Wall O' Sound to hold auxiliary workshops, auditions

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Band will hold workshops and auditions for Drum Major, Centralettes dance line, color guard and drum line this spring.

Centralette workshops will be held in the South Campus Gymnasium from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, and Tuesday, April 4; and from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 27.

During the workshops the participants will learn a dance routine and cover basic dance techniques that are essential for Centralettes, including leaps, toe points, splits and turns. Auditions will be held Thursday, April 27, at 5 p.m. in the South Campus Gymnasium. Color guard workshops will be held in the South Campus Gymnasium Thursday, April 6, from

5 to 7 p.m. and Friday, April 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. Participants should bring their own flag if possible and will learn basic guard work and a routine. Auditions will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, April 28, immediately following the second workshop. Drum Major auditions will be held Monday, April 24, at 4 p.m., in the Vickers Fine Arts Center.

Drum line auditions will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, in the band hall, located in the Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Requirements for each audition can be found online at www.eccc.edu/eccc-wall-o-sound. For more information, contact Ed Girling, band director, at 601-481-4395, or email egirling@eccc.edu.

ECCC Encore Players
to present '25th

What is your best memory at EC?

Meeting some extraordinary people.

What are your plans after EC?

I plan to attend the MUW or the University of Southern Mississippi and continue my bachelor's degree in nursing.

Centralette workshops will be held in the South Campus Gymnasium from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, and Tuesday, April 4; and from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 27.

Color guard workshops will be held in the South Campus Gymnasium Thursday, April 6, from

April 28, immediately following the second workshop. Drum Major auditions will be held Monday, April 24, at 4 p.m., in the Vickers Fine Arts Center.

online at www.eccc.edu or email egirling@eccc.edu.



EC PHOTO

Cast members for the ECCC musical production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" include, from left, Jonathan Hall, Alexandria Crout, Mason Garner, Brad Taylor, Anastasia Crout, Sarah Laird, Jack Vidals, Destiny Barrett, and Samuel Tero. Not pictured, are Mackenzie Gray, Kinsey Gentry, Vimal Patel, Adrianna Crout and Skyler Bell.

ECCC Encore Players to present '25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'

The East Central Community College Encore Players will present "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn March 30 through April 1, 2017. The annual musical presentation begins at 7 p.m. nightly in Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium on campus. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased by calling 601-635-2111.

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" features an eclectic group of six middle schoolers who vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime.

According to director Jessica Price, "While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming 'ding' of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box."

WORDS OF A WARRIOR

What are your plans for Spring Break?



KATIE WARE
Sophomore
Major: Pre-Nursing
Hometown: Lake

I'm going to Tennessee to the mountains with my friend Triston Coats.



MIKELL DANIELS
Sophomore
Major: Sports Medicine
Hometown: Forest

I'm not sure yet. I might be going to Panama City.



JUSTIN WILLIAMS
Freshman
Major: Engineering
Hometown: Decatur

I'm going to New Orleans with my family.



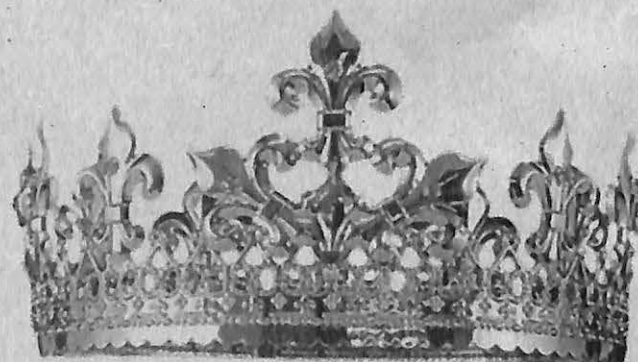
NICOLE ROEBUCK
Freshman
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Decatur

I will be babysitting and spending time with friends and family.



BRITTANY PERKINS
Freshman
Major: Pre-Med
Hometown: Conehatta

I am going to hang out with my friends and family for spring break.



2017 ECCC Beauty Pageant

Monday, March 6 • 6:30 p.m.

\$5 Admission
Students are free with ID.

TEN QUESTIONS

Crystal Fitzgerald, Warrior Wellness Coordinator

BY JAKEEM TRIPLETT

■ **How long have you been at East Central Community College?**

Not even a year yet! I was hired and started here in August.

■ **What motivated you to teach wellness?**

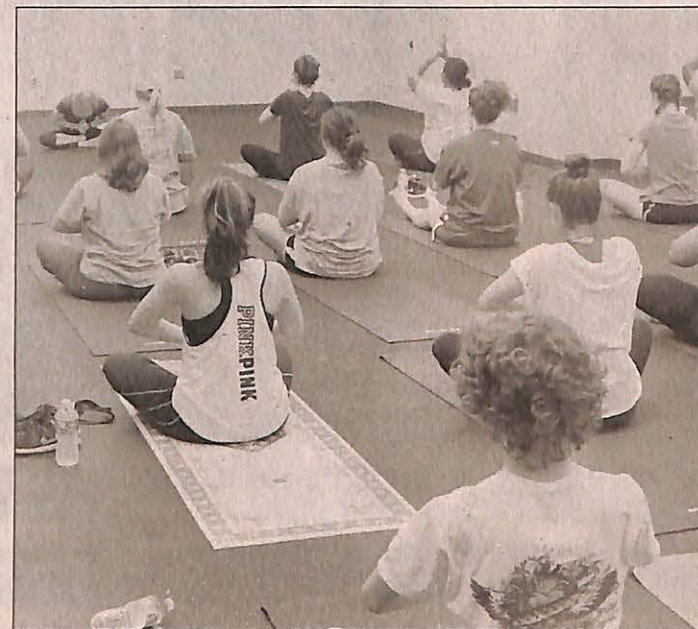
My degree is in health leisure and exercise science. I've always been active in sports in high school and college. Sports kept me active which led me to pursue my degree. It's something I'm passionate about.

■ **Where did you go to school?**

In high school, I went to Holmes County. I went to the University of West Florida to pursue my degree in health leisure and exercise science.

■ **What do you think is the most important health aspect?**

All combined your thinking stress, nutrition, fitness, financial, family, and religion. Wellness is everything. Stress can play a factor in your fitness, and it can also affect your nutrition. I guess I can say that nutrition and fitness would be number one. Without proper nu-



EC PHOTO

Yoga is among the classes offered through the new Warrior Wellness program.

trition, fitness is useless.

However, with both combined, fitness gives off endorphins which makes you happy. People have misconceptions of fitness thinking it's just exercising. There are different types of fitness. I think that fitness is having a happy, healthy lifestyle and that'll get you started.

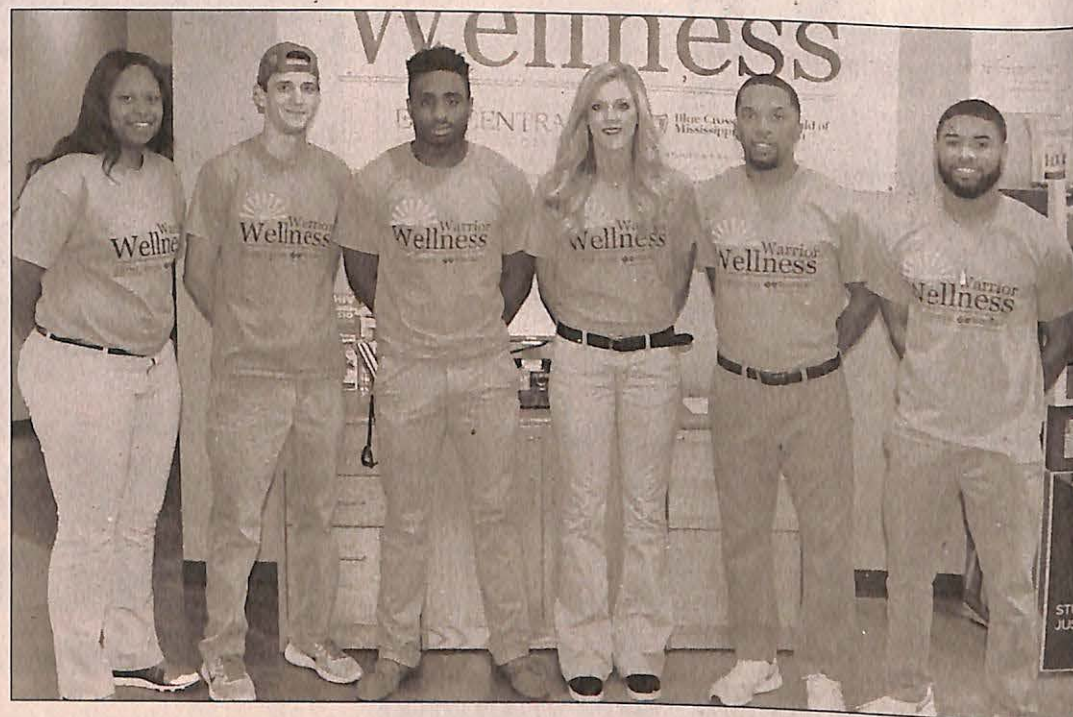
■ **What new programs are there at the fitness center?**

Class wise it would be kickboxing, yoga, and toning. We have a Micro Fit assessment system, and everything equipment wise is updated except for a few cardio pieces, which we intend to update sometime after May.

■ **How is the turnout so far?**

So far so good. It's mostly steady all day.

■ **What is the biggest class?**



EC PHOTO

Warrior Wellness staff members, from left, are Ronneka Robertson, Deon McClendon, Warrior Wellness Coordinator Crystal Fitzgerald, Derek Welch and Tylan Martin.

Yoga.

■ **What hours are the fitness center available?**

We're open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday we're open from 6 a.m. until 4 in the afternoon. We're not open on Saturday or Sunday.

■ **What other plans**

are there for the fitness center in the future?

My plan for next year is to have a spin class. It will be held in our fitness room. Of course, we'll have to get more spin bikes but I imagine a black light event, or like the glow in the dark style. The music will be loud, the instructor would be hype, and I think that it

will be fun. I got the idea from looking at a Pearl River event, and I think that it will be fun. Those are the two main things for next year that I want.

Of course, I want to offer more classes, and I would like to add more workout equipment. I would like to add an ab machine and we are looking into a leg press machine, but finances play a huge role as well with anything.

We just want to amp up the volume of people coming in. We want to reach out to the dorm students and we are still doing community outreach.

■ **How do people sign up?**

It's free for students. Students can clock in and out with their badge. There's no necessary sign-up. The community can now participate in wellness assessments and group fitness classes, but cannot use the facility yet. We plan to incorporate



2017 SOFTBALL

02/07

vs. Marion Military (2/4 p.m.)

02/09

vs. Calhoun (2/4 p.m.)

02/15

@ East MS (1/3 p.m.)

02/18

vs. Shelton State (1/3 p.m.)

SOFTBALL



EAST CENTRAL WARRIORS



2017 SOFTBALL

02/07
vs. Marion Military (2/4 p.m.)

02/09
vs. Calhoun (2/4 p.m.)

02/15
@ East MS (1/3 p.m.)

02/18
vs. Shelton State (1/3 p.m.)

02/21
@ Alabama Southern (1/3 p.m.)

02/23
@ Marion Military (1/3 p.m.)

02/26
vs. Jefferson Davis (2/4 p.m.)

03/02
@ Baton Rouge (1/3 p.m.)

03/07
@ Jones (4/6 p.m.)

03/10
vs. Coahoma (1/3 p.m.)

03/14
vs. Pearl River (3/5 p.m.)

03/17
vs. Holmes (1/3 p.m.)

03/19
vs. Northwest (1/3 p.m.)

03/22
@ Hinds (3/5 p.m.)

03/25
@ Mississippi Delta (1/3 p.m.)

03/28
vs. Co-Lin (3/5 p.m.)

04/01
@ Itawamba (2/4 p.m.)

04/05
vs. Meridian (3/5 p.m.)

04/08
@ Northeast (1/3 p.m.)

04/11
@ MS Gulf Coast (3/5 p.m.)

04/14
@ East MS (1/3 p.m.)

04/19
vs. Southwest (3/6 p.m.)

04/22
vs. Baton Rouge (1/3 p.m.)

the volume of people coming in. We want to reach out to the dorm students and we are still doing community outreach.

■ How do people sign up?

It's free for students. Students can clock in and out with their badge. There's no necessary sign-up. The community can now participate in wellness assessments and group fitness classes, but cannot use the facility yet.

We plan to incorporate everyone as soon as possible. The community can go online and register on Facebook or Twitter for kickboxing classes. With yoga, they can call in and come by and we would put them on the list. Usually we're accommodating and meet the needs of everyone.

COURTS

From Page 1

catch the eyes of several recruits—potential student athletes—whose lives will be eternally changed because of the time they spent here at East Central.”

“This is a grand day,” echoed second year ECCC head tennis coach Jay Paccelli. “I am so excited for our community, our tennis players and everybody attached to East Central athletics and East Central Community College as a whole. It's an exciting time to be the coach here at East Central.”

Two current ECCC tennis players also spoke at the ribbon cutting. Sophomore Chaney Mills from Newton County High School is a member of the women's team currently ranked No. 8 regionally by ITA, and Graham Murphree, also from Newton County High School, is a member of the No. 22 nationally ranked men's team.

“This complex will allow Warrior tennis to compete in a way that has not been possible before,” said Mills.

“Growing up here I never thought this would happen in our community,” commented Murphree. “It's truly a blessing, and I'm proud to be a part of it and ECCC tennis.”

The new Tennis Complex was designed by Eley Guild Hardy Architects of Biloxi. Construction was by J&J Contractors Inc. of Collinsville.

@ECCCSOFTBALL

#WarriorStrong

@ECCCATHLETICS

Warrior Athletics

EC men's basketball earns playoff spot

The East Central Community College men's basketball team clinched an MACJC State Tournament berth with an 87-80 win over Pearl River Community College Thursday, Feb. 16, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

Behind a five-game winning streak, the Warriors are 13-8 overall and 8-4 in the MACJC South Division, currently sitting tied with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at fourth place.

With stakes high for both team, the game was tied eight times in the first half, but the Warriors pulled ahead 41-39 at the intermission and eventually won by seven.

East Central sophomore forward Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School once again led all scorers with 24 points and a game-leading eight rebounds.

Also in double-digit scoring for the Warriors were freshman Jaquan Dotson of Neshoba Central High School with 15 points, sophomore Jaylon Bardley of New Hope High School with 13 points and six assists, and sophomore Shaquille Benson

of Hahnville (La.) High School with 10 points.

ECCC VS. CO-LIN

The Warrior basketball team won its fourth straight game and improved its MACJC South Division record to 7-5 with a 93-84 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College Monday, Feb. 13, in Wesson.

Behind a double-double performance from sophomore forward Tonzell Handy, who had 31 points, the Warriors controlled the game except for a late Co-Lin lead with 9:30 to play.

The Warriors led Co-Lin by 14 at the intermission.

Handy, who prepped at Lanier High School, also pulled down a game-high 15 rebounds in leading the Warriors to big win over Co-Lin.

The Warriors shot well from the floor, hitting 61 percent of their shots for the game, including 41 percent from beyond the three-point arc.

Handy also had four assists,

See BASKETBALL, PAGE 8



EC PHOTO

East Central's Tonzell Handy fights through a Co-Lin defender for a basket in a recent Warrior win.

New year, new team for Warrior Baseball

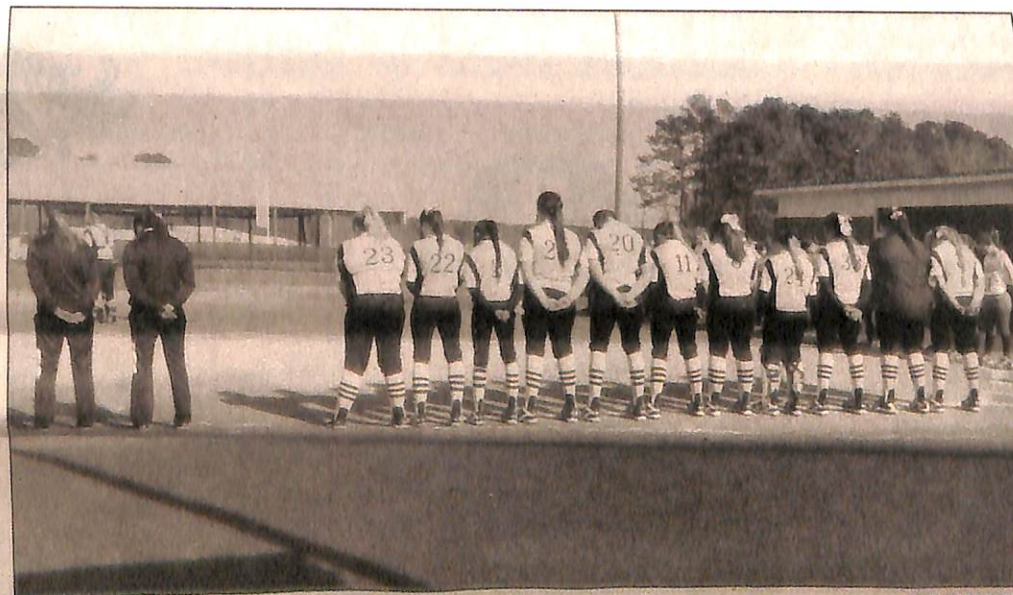
The 2016 East Central Community College baseball team won its fourth state championship in dramatic fashion last May, only to miss out on a chance to make its first-ever trip to the College World Series in heartbreaking fashion a week later.

This season, as the 2017 version of Head Coach

and Junior Colleges State Baseball Championship in 2007, 2013, and 2016.

"We don't even talk about past years except how we can learn and improve from the experiences. This is a new team and new competition. Repeating would only be for last year's team playing the same competition we played this year."

The 2016 Diamond



EC PHOTO

Upcoming Events

THURS., MARCH 2
- 1/3 p.m. - Baton Rouge, La.
Softball at Baton Rouge

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
- 2 p.m. - Perkinston
Men's and Women's Tennis at Gulf Coast

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
- Noon - Mobile, Ala. (doubleheader)
Baseball at Bishop State

MONDAY-TUESDAY, MARCH 6-7
- All Day - Northwood Country Club, Meridian
Golf at MACJC Event No. 5

TUESDAY, MARCH 7
- 2 p.m. - Goodman
Men's and Women's Tennis at Holmes

- 4/6 p.m. - Ellisville
Softball at Jones County

FRIDAY, MARCH 10
- 1/3 p.m. - Campus
Softball vs. Coahoma

- 2 p.m. - Campus
Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Itawamba

SAT., MARCH 11
- 2 p.m. (7 innings) - Tyler, Texas
Baseball at Arkansas Baptist

- 2 p.m. - Gadsden, Ala.
Men's Tennis at

- 4:30 p.m. (9 Inn.) - Tyler, Texas
Baseball at Tyler

- 5 p.m. - Gadsden, Ala.

for Warrior Baseball

The 2016 East Central Community College baseball team won its fourth state championship in dramatic fashion last May, only to miss out on a chance to make its first-ever trip to the College World Series in heartbreaking fashion a week later.

This season, as the 2017 version of Head Coach Neal Holliman's Warrior baseball team hits the diamond, there is no talk of repeating as state champions or advancing to Enid, Okla., home of the 2017 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Baseball World Series May 27-June 3.

That was last year and this is this year.

Holliman, who enters his 11th year at East Central with an overall record of 288-223, said this is a new year, new team, and new competition.

"In this league it is very difficult to repeat and our focus is not on that in any aspect," said Holliman, who won the Mississippi Association of Community

and Junior Colleges State Baseball Championship in 2007, 2013, and 2016. "We don't even talk about past years except how we can learn and improve from the experiences. This is a new team and new competition. Repeating would only be for last year's team playing the same competition we played this year."

The 2016 Diamond Warriors beat Jones County Junior College 13-12 last May 14 on the JCJC campus to win the MACJC State Baseball Championship. The next weekend, ECCC advanced to the championship of the NJCAA Region 23 Baseball Tournament held at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex in Decatur before Jones County won two straight games to win the tournament. JCJC went on to win the 2016 NJCAA Division II Baseball National Championship.

East Central finished the season with a 38-17 record and a No. 10 na-

See **BASEBALL, PAGE 10**



The Lady Warrior softball team prays before a recent game.

EC PHOTO

Softball features new faces as season begins

With only two starters returning, the No. 12 nationally ranked East Central Community College Lady Diamond Warriors expect a lot from their freshman class.

Head coach Kristin Chaney enters her fifth season at East Central with 16 freshmen, losing almost all starters from her successful 2016 squad.

Last year's softball team finished 44-11 and was eliminated from the 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament by MACJC State Champion and eventual national runner-up Jones County Junior College. Gone from the team are Lacey Hill (Southeastern Louisiana

University), 144 strikeouts and 21-7 record in the circle; Mahalia Gibson (Southeastern Louisiana University), 68 RBI and 17 home runs; Caitlyn Aldous (University of Southern Mississippi), .440 batting average and 32 RBI; and Maegen Ellis (Nicholls State University), 42 RBI.

Returning starters include catcher/infielder Brittney McCray, a product of Sumrall High School, who had 35 RBI and four home runs during the 2016 season. Also returning is infielder Latesia Davis of Newton County High School.

"McCray will be moving to first

See **SOFTBALL, PAGE 9**

East Central tennis set to open 2017 season with new tennis complex

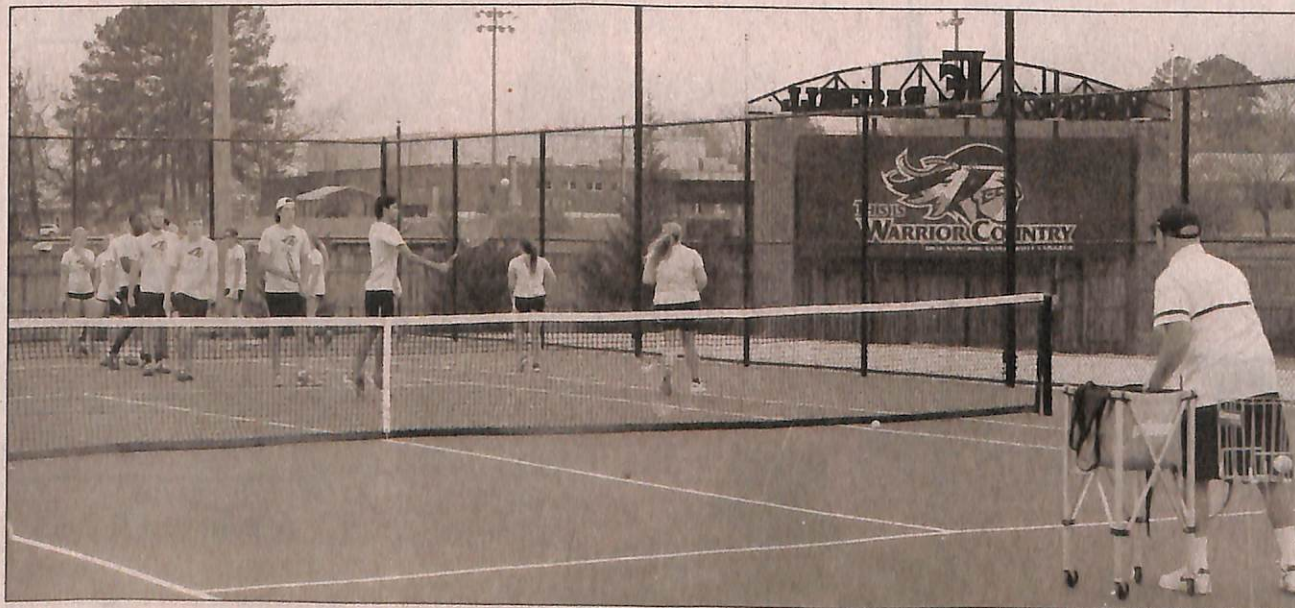
East Central Community College Tennis Coach Jay Pacelli says more talent and increased depth have brought much optimism to the college's men's and women's tennis teams as they hit the courts for the spring 2017 season.

Pacelli, who is in his second year leading the ECCC tennis teams, said both teams will be better this season.

"We will be improved," Pacelli said. "I believe our women's team at a minimum can take a leap into the top half of the teams in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. Our men should be competing for a spot at the national tournament and possibly for a state championship."

"We have lofty goals. We would not be here if we didn't have lofty goals. The other teams in the state will be better this year as well, but I have faith in our teams. We will be better, but we still have to prove that on the court."

The ECCC men finished fifth out of 10 teams in the state last spring and are currently ranked No. 22 in the nation by the In-



The ECCC tennis teams conducted their first practice on the new courts after the ribbon cutting held recently.

EC PHOTO

tercollegiate Tennis Association.

Pacelli said three sophomores will provide leadership this year as the incoming freshmen get adjusted to college play. Returning are Graham Murphree and Will Stewart of Newton County High School and Brandon Rogers out of Winston Academy.

"We added terrific, accom-

plished tennis players to our nucleus," said Pacelli. "We have nine players who can step up, play quality tennis, and be successful."

Newcomers expected to contribute include Tom Langelaar from Van Maelant High School in Veldhoven, Netherlands; Joseph Jabour and William Woo-

ten, both from Warren Central High School in Vicksburg; and Emontie Lewis and Mark Stewart, both from Terry High School in Byram.

"I see Tom and returning No. 1 player John Jimenez (Oruro, Bolivia) being two of the top players in the state and con-

See **TENNIS, PAGE 9**

Tennis vs. Itawamba

SAT., MARCH 11
- 2 p.m. (7 innings) -
Tyler, Texas
Baseball at Arkansas Baptist

- 2 p.m. - Gadsden, Ala.
Men's Tennis at Gadsden State

- 4:30 p.m. (9 inn.) -
Tyler, Texas
Baseball at Tyler

- 5 p.m. - Gadsden, Ala.
Women's Tennis at Snead State

SUNDAY, MARCH 12
- 1 p.m. - Hanceville, Ala.
Men's and Women's Tennis at Wallace State

TUESDAY, MARCH 14
- 3/5 p.m. - Campus Softball vs. Pearl River

WED., MARCH 15
- 3 p.m. - Campus (doubleheader) Baseball vs. Spoon River

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
- 1/3 p.m. - Campus Softball vs. Holmes

SAT., MARCH 18
- Noon - Clarksdale (doubleheader) Baseball at Coahoma

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
- 1/3 p.m. - Campus Softball vs. Northwest

WED., MARCH 22
- 2 p.m. - Campus Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Meridian

- 3 p.m. - Summit (doubleheader) Baseball at Southwest

- 3/5 p.m. - Raymond Softball at Hinds

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
- 1 p.m. - Campus Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Holmes

SAT., MARCH 25
- 1 p.m. - Goodman (doubleheader) Baseball at Holmes

- 1/3 p.m. - Moorhead (doubleheader) Softball at Mississippi Delta

BASKETBALL

From Page 7

four steals and a blocked shot for ECCC. Freshman guard Jaquan Dotson of Neshoba Central High School added 15 points. Cayman Ruffin, also a product of Neshoba Central High School, put up 12 points, sophomore point guard Jaylon Bardley of New Hope High School had 11 points, and sophomore Shaquille Benson of Hahnville (La.) High School added 10 points.

ECCC VS. MS GULF COAST

The East Central Community College men's basketball team improved its playoff chances with a crucial 82-78 MACJC South Division win against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Thursday, Feb. 9.

Sophomore forward Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School led the Warriors in scoring with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Bardley added 14 points, seven assists, and three steals for ECCC. Also in double-digit scoring were Cayman Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School with 13 and Thurston McCarty of Quitman High School with 13.

ECCC VS. MERIDIAN

After falling behind by seven points at the half,

the East Central Community College men's basketball team fought back to beat Meridian Community College 80-74 Monday, Feb. 6, in Meridian.

The Warriors put up 50 points in the second half to earn the road victory.

Sophomore Tonzell Handy out of Lanier High School posted a double-double performance with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Cayman "C.J." Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School finished with 12 points and Jaylon Bardley of New Hope High School added 11 points and four steals.

With the win, ECCC moved to 10-8 overall and 5-4 in the MACJC South Division. The Warriors currently sit in fourth place in the south.

ECCC VS. SOUTHWEST MS

Behind a career-high 33 points from sophomore forward Tonzell Handy, the East Central Community College Warriors pulled off an 80-74 upset over visiting Southwest Mississippi Community College in MACJC basketball action Thursday, Feb. 2, in Brackeen-Wood Gym on campus.

Handy, who prepped at Lanier High School, also pulled down a game-high nine rebounds in leading the Warriors to big win over MACJC South Division leading Southwest.

With the win, East Cen-

tral improved to 9-8 overall and 4-4 in the division, good enough for a tie for third place. Southwest fell to 12-5 overall and 6-2 in division play.

The Warriors shot well from the floor, hitting 55 percent of their shots for the game, including 53 percent from beyond the three-point arc.

Handy also had two assists, four steals and a blocked shot on his big night. Freshman guard Cayman Ruffin out of Neshoba Central High School added 14 points as the only other Warrior in double figures.

ECCC VS. JCIC

The East Central Community College men's basketball team fell 94-78 to No. 9 nationally ranked Jones County Junior College Thursday, Jan. 26, in the Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

East Central was led by Alvin "A.J." McFarland of West Point High School with a career-high 17 points. Other Warriors in double-digit scoring were Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School with 13 points and Thurston McCarty of Quitman High School who added 12 points.

ECCC VS. PEARL RIVER

The East Central Community College men's basketball team defeated Pearl River Community

College 83-56 in Poplarville Monday, Jan. 23.

The Warriors moved to 8-6 on the season and 3-2 in the MACJC South Division.

ECCC freshman Jaquan Dotson of Neshoba Central High School led all scorers with a career-high 24 points against the Wildcats. Sophomore Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School added 11 points and pulled down six rebounds.

The Warriors were 9 for 10 at the free throw line for the contest.

ECCC VS. CO-LIN

A career-high 20 points from sophomore Tonzell Handy helped push the East Central Community College men's basketball team to an 88-75 MACJC South Division win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College on Thursday night, Jan. 19, at Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

Handy, a product of Lanier High School in Jackson, also pulled down 12 rebounds, including 11 on the defensive end of the court.

The Warriors improved to 2-2 in South Division play and 7-6 overall, while Co-Lin dropped to 7-6 on the season and 1-3 in division play.

Three other Warriors scored in double figures, including freshman Antonio Clark of Leake Central High School with

19 points, sophomore Jaylon Bardley of New Hope High School with 15 points, and freshman Cayman Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School with 11. Freshman Alvin McFarland out of West Point High School dished out a dozen assists for East Central.

The Warrior defense held Co-Lin to 35 percent shooting on the night and produced 13 steals and four blocked shots.

ECCC VS. MS GULF COAST

The East Central Community College Warriors lost a close back and forth battle against the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs 79-77 in Perkinston Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The score was tied seven times and the lead changed hands nine times in the second half alone, but a lay-up with two seconds left in the game put Gulf Coast on top for the win.

Five Warriors scored in double figures with sophomore Jaylon Bardley of New Hope High School putting up 22 points.

Also in double figures were Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School, freshman Cameron Diggs of Blount High School (Mobile, Ala.) and freshman Cayman Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School each with 12 points. Freshman Jay-

lon Chiles of Biloxi High School put up 11 points early in the first half.

ECCC VS. EMCC

The East Central Community College men's basketball team kicked off the new year with an 82-80 win in a close matchup against East Mississippi Community College in non-division action in Scooba, Tuesday, Jan. 10.

The Warriors were led by freshman guard Cayman Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School with 13 points. Sophomore forward Shaquille Benson of Hahnville (La.) High School added 11 points and eight rebounds for the Warrior win.

East Central improved to 5-5 on the season, while EMCC fell to 5-5.

ECCC VS. SHELTON STATE

The East Central Community College men's basketball team fell to Shelton State Community College Monday, Dec. 12, in Tuscaloosa.

The EC men's team held the Buccaneers to a one-point lead at the half, but No. 15 nationally ranked Shelton State pulled away in the second half to an 81-71 win.

Freshman Cayman Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School put up 14 points for the Warriors along with six assists. Sophomore Jalon Bardley of New Hope High School added nine points and

eight assists. ECCC shot 51 percent from the floor, but just 50 percent from the free throw line for the game.

ECCC VS. NORTHEAST

The East Central Community College men's basketball team could not hold on to a steady lead in the fourth quarter and fell 75-64 against Northeast Mississippi Community College Thursday, Dec. 8, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

The Warriors had three players in double-digit scoring. Cayman "C.J." Ruffin of Neshoba Central led ECCC scorers with 14 points.



2017

BASEBALL

02/11

vs. Jackson State TN (2 p.m.)

02/18 - 02/19

EC Invitational

02/21

vs. Lawson State (2 p.m.)

02/24 - 02/25

Rush Invitational

02/28

@ Northeast (1 p.m.)

02/04

WARRIORS



EAST CENTRAL WARRIORS



2017 BASEBALL

02/11
vs. Jackson State TN (2 p.m.)

02/18 - 02/19
EC Invitational

02/21
vs. Lawson State (2 p.m.)

02/24 - 02/25
Rush Invitational

02/28
@ Northeast (1 p.m.)

03/04
@ Bishop State (12 noon)

03/08
vs. Shelton State (3 p.m.)

03/11
@ Arkansas Baptist (2 p.m.)

03/11
@ Tyler College (4:30 p.m.)

03/15
vs. Spoon River (3 p.m.)

03/18
@ Coahoma (12 noon)

03/22
@ Southwest (3 p.m.)

03/25
@ Holmes (1 p.m.)

03/28
vs. Jones (3 p.m.)

04/01
vs. Mississippi Delta (2 p.m.)

04/05
@ Pearl River (3 p.m.)

04/08
vs. East MS (2 p.m.)

04/11
vs. Hinds (3 p.m.)

04/14
vs. Northeast (2 p.m.)

04/19
@ Co-Lin (3 p.m.)

04/22
vs. Itawamba (2 p.m.)

04/25
@ Meridian (4 p.m.)

05/03
vs. MS Gulf Coast (3 p.m.)

05/06
@ Northwest (3 p.m.)

Sophomore Jalon Bardley of New Hope High School added nine points and eight assists.

ECCC shot 51 percent from the floor, but just 50 percent from the free throw line for the game.

ECCC VS. NORTHEAST

The East Central Community College men's basketball team could not hold on to a steady lead in the fourth quarter and fell 75-64 against Northeast Mississippi Community College Thursday, Dec. 8, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

The Warriors had three players in double-digit scoring. Cayman "C.J." Ruffin of Neshoba Central led ECCC scorers with 14 points.

Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School added 12 points and Cameron Diggs of Blount (Ala.) High School had 11 points.

ECCC VS. SOUTHWEST

The East Central Community College Warriors fell 76-62 in their South Division basketball opener in Summit Monday, Dec. 5, against the defending MACJC State Champion Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears.

Three Warriors hit double-digit scoring for the evening. Sophomore forward Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School put up 11 points and was the leading rebounder with 10. Freshmen Jaquan Dotson of Neshoba Central High School and Cameron Diggs of Blount (Ala.) High School added 11 points each.

ECCC VS. WALLACE CC

The East Central Community College men's basketball team defeated Wallace Community College-Selma out of Alabama 87-71 in the EC Classic held in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium in Decatur Nov. 22.

Four Warriors posted double-digit scoring including freshman guard Jaquan Dotson of Neshoba Central High School who led all scorers with 19 points while pulling down six rebounds.

Sophomore forward Tonzell Handy of Lanier High School added 17 points and was the leading rebounder with nine. Cayman Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School put up 16 points and Shaquille Benson of Hahnville (La.) High School had 10 points.

@ECCCBASEBALL

#WarriorStrong

@ECCCATHLETICS

SOFTBALL

From Page 7

base, but will still catch some this season," Chaney said. "Latesia will be at second base."

The circle will feature two new pitchers for the Lady Warriors, freshman Kaitlyn Oswalt of Heritage Academy and Mackenzie Rousseau of Houma, La.

"These pitchers spin it a lot more than anything," Chaney noted. "We are going to have to play solid defense behind them."

Chaney will count on her freshman class that includes catcher Cassie Obman of Caledonia High School behind the plate, Kayla Beckham of Neshoba Central High School at shortstop, Madalyn McMahon of Neshoba Central at third, and Mackenzie Johnson of Nanih Waiya High School in the outfield.

"We have a lot of team speed, so we are going to have to steal some bases," Chaney added. "This is a very athletic team, and we've got to play defense and hit."

Chaney also adds a new assistant coach for the 2016-17 season.

Rachel Hurley, in her first season as assistant softball coach for the Lady Diamond Warriors, was a volunteer assistant softball coach last season at Meridian Community College. Hurley played softball at Mississippi College, where she was a second team All-Region and second team all-American Southwest Conference standout in 2010, and MC's Offensive Player of the Year in 2009. Prior to playing at Mississippi College, she played for the Mississippi State University Lady Bulldogs.

"Coach Hurley has brought a lot of fire back in me," Chaney said. "Her attitude is contagious and we are a lot alike; she is relentless."

This season the Lady Warriors will not play in any tournaments and Chaney thinks that their

in five innings.

Freshman third baseman Madalyn McMahon of Neshoba Central homered to left field in the bottom of the third.

McMahon had three hits in game one, while Brittney McCray, Cassie Obman, and sophomore second baseman Latesia Davis from Newton County High School had two hits each.

Freshman Kaitlyn Oswalt out of Heritage Academy in Columbus picked up her third win of the year in three games in the circle. She gave up four hits and struck out three.

East Central outhit the Lady Tigers 10-4.

Game two was a pitcher's duel until the bottom of the fourth when freshman shortstop Kayla Beckham, a product of Neshoba Central, hit a solo home run to break up the scoreless tie.

The Lady Warriors extended their lead to the final 8-0 in the fifth inning on an RBI single from McMahon, a two-run single from Obman, a hit batter, a two-run double off the bat of freshman Tagen Rimmel of Clinton High School, and an RBI single from freshman Marlee Parkes of Nanih Waiya.

Freshman pitcher Mackenzie Rousseau out of Vanderbilt Catholic High School in Houma, La., picked up her first

win of the year throwing a three-hit shutout.

ECCC VS. CALHOUN CC

The No. 12 nationally ranked East Central Community College Lady Warrior softball team opened its 2017 season with a doubleheader sweep over the Calhoun Community College Lady Warhawks Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Softball Park.

East Central took game one 9-1 over the visitors from Decatur, Ala. An RBI single by freshman shortstop Kayla Beckham drove in the winning run

in game two as the Lady Warriors came from behind to win 6-5

Beckham had a two-run triple in the sixth to give ECCC the final 9-1 run-rule win. She finished game one 3-4 at the plate with three RBI.

Freshman pitcher Kaitlyn Oswalt out of Heritage Academy in Columbus picked up the win in the circle in her first college start throwing a four-hitter. Cassie Obman was 3-3 with one RBI and Mackenzie Johnson had two RBI for the Lady Warriors. East Central out-hit Calhoun 15-4.

Starting an all-freshman lineup in game two, the ECCC Lady Warriors again grabbed an early lead with three runs in the bottom of the second inning. Obman and freshman Tagen Rimmel singled in the inning and freshman Kenyatta Moore from Philadelphia High School doubled in a run.

Calhoun responded with a run in the third and then four more in the fourth to take a 5-3 lead.

East Central tied the game at 5-5 in the bottom of the frame on a two-run shot over the left field wall by Johnson.

Johnson led off the top bottom of the seventh for East Central with a triple off the center field wall, before Beckham gave the Lady Warriors the victory with her walk-off single. Johnson was 2-4 at the plate in game two with two RBI.

Oswalt also won game two in relief. She replaced freshman Mackenzie Rousseau in the top of the fourth with no outs. Rousseau, who started her first college game, is a product of Vanderbilt Catholic High School in Houma, La.

TENNIS

From Page 7

tributing heavily to our success," noted Pacelli. "All five freshman bring great skill and depth to our men's team."

On the women's side, Chaney Mills from Newton County High School and Andi McCrimon from Winston Academy return from a team that finished eighth in the state last year and currently is ranked No. 8 in the ITA Region III rankings. As co-captains, they will provide leadership for the newcomers, including Tatiana Quinonez of Liceo San Rafael School in Bogota, Columbia.

"I envision Tatiana at the top of our lineup both in singles and doubles,"

Pacelli said. "She is a very accomplished player."

Several other new players who performed well in the fall joining the women's team include An Duong from Richland High School and Julia Johnston from Florence High School.

"They both made incredible improvement this past fall," said Pacelli. "All the women, for that matter, are working hard, further developing their skills, and ready to have a strong 2017 campaign."

The ECCC tennis teams will get a new home for the spring 2017 season. A ribbon cutting was held Feb. 14 to officially open a new Tennis Complex that includes eight lighted courts to serve the ECCC men's and women's varsity tennis teams, as well

as the campus and local communities. The facility includes parking and spectator areas, which were not possible at the current four-court tennis complex on campus that was originally built in 1969.

Pacelli said the new complex will help him to better train and attract tennis players.

"This is a much-needed addition to our tennis programs," said Pacelli. "It gives us the adequate court space needed by a college program that will make our training more effective and our dual matches more efficient. We also will be able to host tournaments in the future.

"It also will be a huge draw for prospective recruits. It is definitely

going to be one of the top tennis complexes in the state of Mississippi."

Pacelli said that all of his players will now be able to train at the same time rather than split practice schedules and that dual matches that once took up to eight hours on the existing four courts at ECCC will now take four hours or less.

"We will be in a difficult spot the first half of the season due to the schedule, but if we can get through that okay we will be set up to finish strong at home," explained Pacelli.

"We start the season with heavyweights," said Pacelli. "It will be an excellent determination of where our program is right from the start."



2017 TENNIS

02/03

@ Marion Military (1 p.m.)

02/06

@ Meridian (2 p.m.)

02/09

@ Hinds (2 p.m.)

02/15

@ Co-Lin (2 p.m.)

02/21

@ Jones (2 p.m.)

LADY WARRIORS



stand in 2010, and MC's Offensive Player of the Year in 2009. Prior to playing at Mississippi College, she played for the Mississippi State University Lady Bulldogs.

"Coach Hurley has brought a lot of fire back in me," Chaney said. "Her attitude is contagious and we are a lot alike; she is relentless."

This season the Lady Warriors will not play in any tournaments and Chaney thinks that their division schedule will be harder than ever this year.

There are three Mississippi community colleges ranked nationally ahead of East Central, including Jones, Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Itawamba, as well as regional opponent LSU-Eunice, who sits atop of the NJCAA preseason ranking.

Chaney says she told her 2016-17 squad that being ranked No. 12 nationally was based off of last year's team.

"The expectations are there, but they haven't earned anything. It's been given to them," noted Chaney. "I hope they take that as a challenge; they've got to earn it to keep it."

The East Central softball team will play 12 home games this season and as a team Chaney says they will strive to be better than they were the day before.

Most East Central home softball games can be heard on the radio at WKOZ "Cruisin'" 98.3. The radio broadcasts are also streamed online on the ECCC website at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media and at www.kicks96news.com.

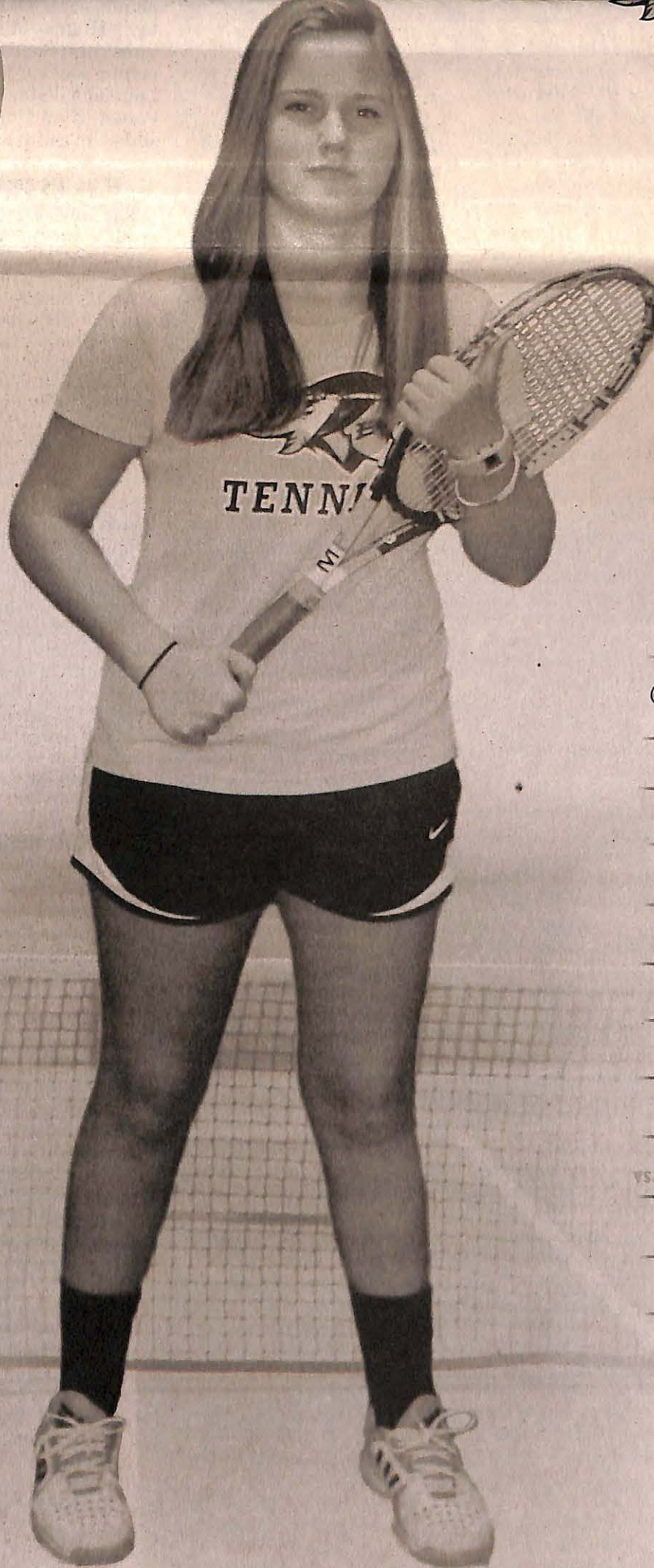
Live video streaming is available via high-definition video and streaming audio found at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media or www.kicks96news.com.

ECCC VS. MARION MILITARY

The No. 12 nationally ranked East Central Community College Lady Warrior softball team picked up its second sweep of the young season Monday, Feb., 13, this time over the Marion Military Institute Lady Tigers at the Softball Park.

East Central won the opener of the doubleheader 6-3, and then took the nightcap by run rule 8-0

EAST CENTRAL WARRIORS



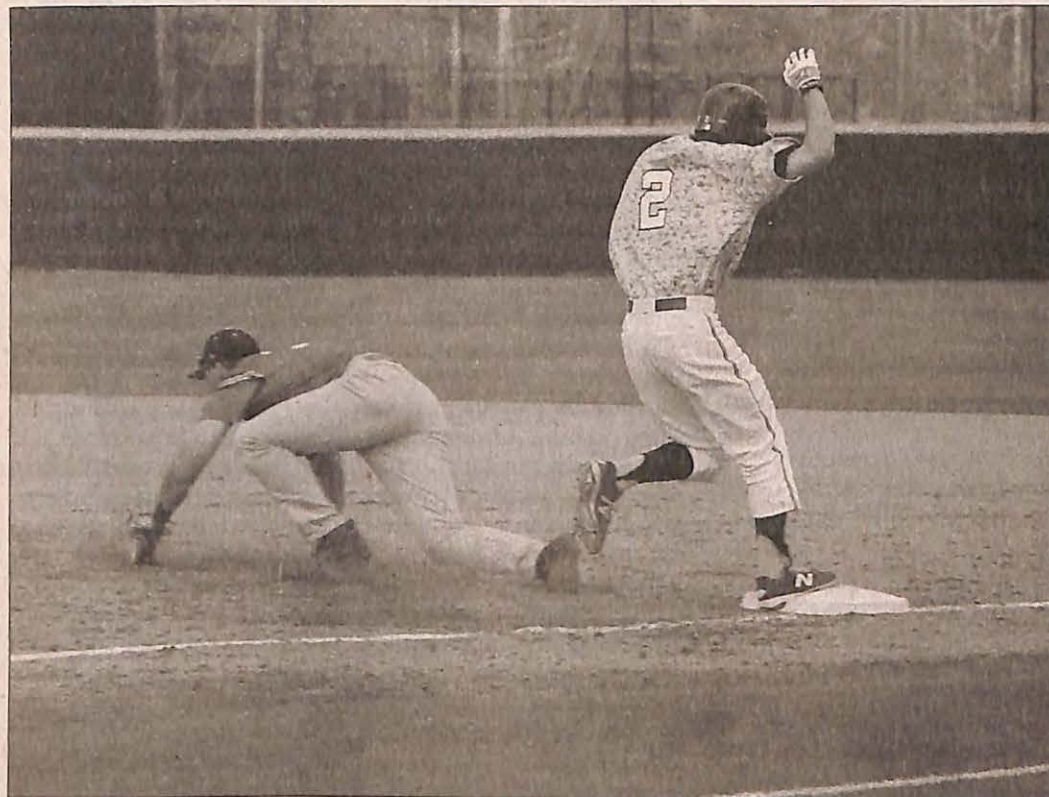
TENNIS

- 02/03
@ Marion Military (1 p.m.)
- 02/06
@ Meridian (2 p.m.)
- 02/09
@ Hinds (2 p.m.)
- 02/15
@ Co-Lin (2 p.m.)
- 02/21
@ Jones (2 p.m.)
- 02/24
@ Itawamba (2 p.m.)
- 02/25
@ Northeast (11 a.m.)
- 03/03
@ Gulf Coast (2 p.m.)
- 03/07
@ Holmes (2 p.m.)
- 03/10
vs. Itawamba (2 p.m.)
- 03/11
@ Gadsden State/Snead State (2/5 p.m.)
- 03/12
@ Wallace State (1 p.m.)
- 03/22
vs. Meridian (2 p.m.)
- 03/24
vs. Holmes (1 p.m.)
- 03/28
vs. Hinds (2 p.m.)
- 03/29
@ Northwest (2 p.m.)
- 04/05
vs. Co-Lin (2 p.m.)
- 04/07
vs. Gulf Coast (2 p.m.)
- 04/08
vs. Marion Military (10 a.m.)
- 04/10
vs. Northeast (2 p.m.)
- 04/11
vs. Jones (2 p.m.)
- 04/13
vs. Northwest (2 p.m.)

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EC PHOTO

Above, Cooper Clement makes it safely to first base against Jackson State (TN). Below, Cole Gray pitches in the ECCC Invitational.

BASEBALL

From Page 7

tional ranking.

Despite it being a new year and a new team, the Diamond Warriors opened the 2017 season in February with a No. 8 national ranking.

Holliman said the goals for this year's team are simple.

"Just as in past years, we are trying to develop a program that can continually compete on the national levels," he explained. "We have made strides in that endeavor, but in no aspect are we finished."

Holliman lost several key players from last year's state champions, including right-handed pitcher Channing Wall, a first team All-American, All-State, and All-Region selection now playing for the University of North Alabama. Gone from the outfield are team captain Matt Mitchell, first team All-State; T.J. Lockett, now at the University of North Alabama; and Reagan Warren, who is playing for Southeastern Oklahoma University. Dylan Snypes, who was second team All-State and now playing at Oral Rob-



"We have several of our guys returning in the middle of the order who gained valuable experience last year and should help us this year," said Holliman. "Everyone must buy-in to what we are doing for us to be successful this season. That starts with the coaches, players, managers, and team personnel. If we take care of our priorities and preparation to ensure we are ready for anything we can imagine, then we will experience success."

In addition to its

ECCC VS. JACKSON STATE CC

The No. 8 nationally ranked East Central Community College Diamond Warriors baseball team opened its 2017 season with a doubleheader sweep against Jackson State Community College of Jackson, Tenn., Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex.

The Diamond Warriors beat JSCC 9-7 in a back-and-forth first game.

East Central scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth to take the lead 15-0

Lady Warrior Basketball roundup

EC VS. PEARL RIVER

The East Central Community College women's basketball team defeated the Pearl River Community College Lady Wildcats 78-69 Thursday, Feb. 16, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on campus.

Sophomore point guard Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School posted a career-high 18 points to help the Lady Warriors pick up the win.

Four other Lady Warriors also had double-digit scoring in the victory including Autumn Taylor of Newton High School with 15 points, six assists and five steals; Aniyah Marshall of Itawamba Agricultural High School had 14 points; Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School with 13 points; and Laneisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Fla.) High School with 12.

EC VS. CO-LIN

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors dropped an 87-71 basketball game to Copeh-Lincoln Community College in MACJC South Division action Monday, Feb. 13, in Wesson.

Leading all-scorers was East Central's freshman center Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School with 19 points and seven rebounds. Three other Lady Warriors also posted a double figure performance. Freshman Autumn Taylor of Newton High School put up 18 points, sophomore Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School had 12 points, and sophomore Laneisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Fla.) High School added 11 points.

EC VS. MS GULF COAST

The East Central Community College women's basketball team picked up an important 77-61 MACJC South Division win against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in a game played in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium in Decatur Thursday, Feb. 9.

Freshman forward Autumn Taylor, a product of Newton High School, controlled the boards with 14 rebounds to go with nine points. Freshman forward Kaylin McCree from Newton County High School added 11 points.

EC VS. JONES

Despite a double-double performance by Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School, the Lady Warriors fell 96-74 against the No. 21 nationally ranked Jones County Lady Bobcats Thursday, Jan. 26, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

Coleman led all scorers with a career-high of 27 points and 12 rebounds. Also, in double-digit scoring were Autumn Taylor of Newton High School with 17 points, Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School with 11 and Bryona Stewart of Itawamba Agricultural High School with 10 points.

EC VS. PEARL RIVER

Four East Central Community College women's basketball players finished in double figures Monday, Jan. 23, as the Lady Warriors beat Pearl River Community College in Poplarville. The Lady Warriors picked up their third MACJC South Division win with a 72-67 victory over the Lady Wildcats.

Freshman forward Autumn Taylor of Newton High School led all ECCC scorers with 19 points. Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School put up 13 points, Laneisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Fla.) High School had 12, and Aniyah Marshall of Itawamba Agricultural High School added 10 points.

EC VS. CO-LIN

The MACJC South Division leading Copeh-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves stopped East Central Community College's three-game winning streak with an

game played in Brackeen-Wood gym in Decatur Thursday, Jan. 12.

Freshman center Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School led East Central with 21 points and 18 rebounds, while teammates Bryona Stewart of Itawamba Agricultural High School added 21 points and Autumn Taylor of Newton High School chipped in 19 points.

EC VS. EMCC

The East Central Community College women's basketball team beat rival East Mississippi Community College in a hard fought game in Scooba Tuesday, Jan. 10, by the score of 72-69.

At the half, ECCC freshman Autumn Taylor of Newton High School led all scorers with 16 points.

Taylor finished with a career-high 32 points and brought down 13 rebounds, leading all scorers. Her performance was the eighth time she has put up double-digit scoring this season.

Also in double digits for the Lady Warriors were Laneisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Pensacola, Fla.) High School, who added 13 points, and Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School, who put up 12 points.

EC VS. SHELTON STATE

The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams both fell to Shelton State Community College Monday, Dec. 12, in Tuscaloosa.

The Lady Warriors had three players in double-digit scoring in a 111-62 loss to the No. 4 nationally ranked Lady Buccaneers. Freshman Autumn Taylor of Newton High School led ECCC scorers with 20 points and seven rebounds. Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School was not far behind with 18 points, and Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School added 13 points.

outfield are team captain Matt Mitchell, first team All-State; T.J. Lockett, now at the University of North Alabama; and Reagan Warren, who is playing for Southeastern Oklahoma University. Dylan Snypes, who was second team All-State and now playing at Oral Roberts University; catcher Michael Davis, now with the University of Southern Arkansas; and Will Kennedy have departed from the infield. In addition to Wall, pitcher Peyton Cain, who was second team All-State in 2016, is now at the University of Tennessee Martin.

The Diamond Warriors do return four starters from last year's team, as well as several pitchers, along with a talented freshman class.

Among the returners are Billy Cameron from Mendenhall High School, who started at shortstop, Brandon Clark from Neshoba Central High School, who hit in the middle of the order; first baseman Cole Prestegard, a Huntsville (Ala.) High School product who was first team All-State and All-Region 23 last season; and Nathan Roseberry from Purvis High School, who started in centerfield as a freshman and was second team All-State in 2016. Zach Parker from Quitman High School, who split duties behind the plate last season, also returns.

Luke Yancey from East Rankin Academy who was a conference starter and second team All-State returns on the mound, as do Peyton Lott from Seminary High School, who is projected to be a conference starter, and Brock Morris from West Jones High School, who was a conference starter in 2016 and will fill a similar role or long relief in 2017.

In addition, the Diamond Warriors have 21 first-year players who Holliman says, "seem to continue to want to learn and advance." Many will play significant roles this season.

"I must stay focused on what we are doing for us to be successful this season. That starts with the coaches, players, managers, and team personnel. If we take care of our priorities and preparation to ensure we are ready for anything we can imagine, then we will experience success."

In addition to its round-robin of double-headers against MACJC teams, the Diamond Warriors will host the ECCC Invitational Feb. 18-19 and the Rush Invitational Feb. 24-25 at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex. Holliman's team will also travel to Tyler, Texas, March 11 to face Arkansas Baptist and Tyler Junior College, as well as host NJCAA Division I Shelton State in a doubleheader March 8 on campus.

"This will be as tough or tougher than any schedule in our league," noted Holliman. "We don't focus on putting a schedule together to make sure we produce a bunch of wins. We focus on a schedule that prepares us to face the toughest competition we can in order to prepare us for conference and postseason play."

Holliman said MACJC league play will be difficult as always.

"This league is very tough," he said. "Eleven of the last 12 seasons our regional champion has played for or won the national championship, so everyone is trying to climb to the top as we are."

The complete East Central baseball schedule and roster can be found at www.ecccathletics.com.

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Live video streaming is available via high-definition video and streaming audio found at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media or www.kicks96news.com.

with a doubleheader sweep against Jackson State Community College of Jackson, Tenn., Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex.

The Diamond Warriors beat JSCC 9-7 in a back-and-forth first game.

East Central scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth to take the lead 7-3 on a three-run double by Cole Prestegard of Huntsville (Ala.) High School and a double by Decatur native Ty Alderman.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Christian Bellew of Gulfport High School earned the win for Warriors, pitching two-thirds of an inning, allowing no runs, one hit, striking out one, and walking one. Dylan Marsh of Lake Cormorant High School earned the save recording the last six outs.

Freshman right-handed pitcher Sam Parker of Natchez Cathedral High School started the game for the Diamond Warriors, throwing one and two-thirds innings, surrendering two runs, no hits, and striking out five in his debut.

Alderman went 3-3 at the plate with one RBI. Luke Yancey went 4-5, singling four times with an RBI.

In the nightcap, the Diamond Warriors defeated Jackson State 7-4.

JSCC scored three runs in the first inning on two home runs, but ECCC would tie the game in the bottom of the first on a homer by Prestegard over left field wall and an error by the Generals.

ECCC would then score a run every inning except in the second for the win in the seven-inning contest.

Sophomore right-hander Peyton Lott of Seminary High School picked up the win for the Warriors pitching three innings. Lott gave up three runs, three hits, and struck out seven. Hagan Brown of Gautier High School recorded the last three outs to earn the save for Diamond Warriors.

The East Central Community College women's basketball team picked up an important 77-61 MACJC South Division win against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in a game played in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium in Decatur Thursday, Feb. 9.

Leading all scorers was Laneisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Fla.) High School with 21 points, three assists, and six steals. Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School posted a double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Also, in double digits were Aniyah Marshall of Itawamba Agricultural High School with 11 points and Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School adding 10 points for the Lady Warriors.

EC VS. MERIDIAN CC

The East Central Community College women's basketball team fought off a Meridian Community College second half surge to beat MCC 78-74 Monday, Feb. 6, in Meridian.

Sophomore Laneisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Fla.) High School led all scorers with 20 points. Also, in double-digit scoring were Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School with 19 points and eight rebounds, Bryona Stewart of Itawamba Agricultural High School with 14 points, Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School with 13 points, and Autumn Taylor of Newton High School adding 11 points.

EC VS SOUTHWEST

The Southwest Mississippi Community College Lady Bears overcame a 15 point second half deficit to beat the East Central Community College Lady Warriors in MACJC basketball action Thursday, Feb. 2, in Brackeen-Wood Gym.

Leading the way for the Lady Warriors was freshman center Curtisha Coleman from Wayne County High School who had 24 points and six rebounds.

tural High School added 10 points.

EC VS. CO-LIN

The MACJC South Division leading Copiah-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves stopped East Central Community College's three-game winning streak with an 81-64 win in basketball action Thursday, Jan. 19, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

The East Central Lady Warriors had not lost a game in January, including two big road victories over East Mississippi and Mississippi Gulf Coast.

East Central was led sophomore Laneisha Jeans with 25 points, a career high for the product from Pine Forest High School in Pensacola, Fla. Freshman Curtisha Coleman out of Wayne County High School added 15 points and nine rebounds, while freshman Autumn Taylor from Newton High School also scored 15.

EC VS. MS GULF COAST

The East Central Community College Lady Warrior basketball team pulled out another South Division win against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Tuesday, Jan. 17 in Perkinston.

ECCC trailed by two at the half, but with a strong second half performance the Lady Warriors defeated MGCCC 77-68.

Freshman forward Autumn Taylor of Newton High School led all scorers putting up 25 points. Three other Lady Warriors also were in double-digits. Curtisha "Mae" Coleman of Wayne County High School had 19 points and eight rebounds, Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School with 13 points and LaNeisha Jeans of Pine Forest (Fla.) High School with 12.

EC VS. MERIDIAN CC

The East Central Community College women's basketball team picked up an important 77-72 MACJC South Division win against nearby Meridian Community College in a

Buccaneers. Freshman Autumn Taylor of Newton High School led ECCC scorers with 20 points and seven rebounds. Curtisha Coleman of Wayne County High School was not far behind with 18 points, and Shantavis Hughes of Hattiesburg High School added 13 points.

EC VS. NORTHEAST

The East Central Community College women's basketball team fell to Northeast Mississippi Community College 77-61 Thursday, Dec. 8, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

Freshman Autumn Taylor of Newton High School led ECCC scorers with 17 points. She added three assists and two steals.

EC VS. SOUTHWEST

The East Central Community College women's basketball team led most of the contest, but could not hold off a late Southwest Mississippi Community College comeback in a 74-71 loss in Summit Monday, Dec. 5.

ECCC freshman forward Autumn Taylor of Newton High School set a career high and led all scorers with 26 points. She also pulled down eight rebounds, and had eight steals and four assists. It was the fifth consecutive game that Taylor put up double-digit scoring. Freshman guard Khelsea Foster of Arcadia (La.) High School added 12 points for the Lady Warriors.

EC WARRIOR CLASSIC

The East Central Lady Warriors eclipsed the 100 point total twice over the Thanksgiving holidays defeating Louisiana State University Eunice 108-87 and Wallace Community College-Selma out of Alabama 107-64 in the EC Classic held in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium in Decatur Nov. 21-22.

The Lady Warriors scored 100 or more points in three straight basketball games.

Warrior Scene

Intramurals



EC PHOTOS

Intramural sports are in full swing on campus this spring. Indoor volleyball wrapped up in February, just in time for soccer and beach volleyball to kick off and basketball won't be far behind. Above is team The Dean's List, winners of the indoor volleyball championship. Front row, from left, are Tanissa McNair, Trent Evers, Kayla Young and Alex Garcia; and back row, are Logan Wilkerson, Jimmari Jones, Tomaz McNair, Orion Anderson, and Blake Jones.

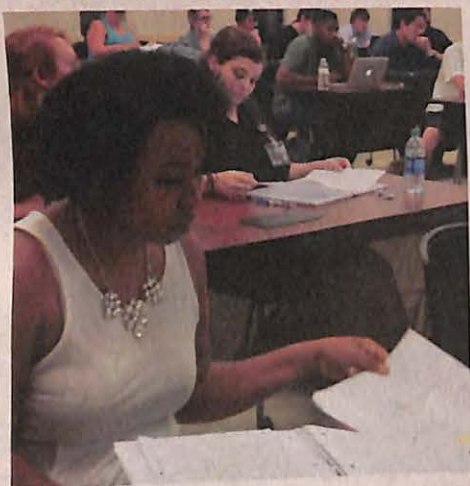


EC PHOTOS

Intramural sports are in full swing on campus this spring. Indoor volleyball wrapped up in February, just in time for soccer and beach volleyball to kick off and basketball won't be far behind. Above is team The Dean's List, winners of the indoor volleyball championship. Front row, from left, are Tanissa McNair, Trent Evers, Kayla Young and Alex Garcia; and back row, are Logan Wilkerson, Jimmari Jones, Tomaz McNair, Orion Anderson, and Blake Jones.



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- Financial Aid and Scholarships Presentation
- Campus Tour with Ole Miss Ambassadors
- Panel with Current Ole Miss Transfer Students
- Lunch at the Rebel Market
- Academic Browse Fair
- Transfer Residence Hall Tours

Register online at

olemiss.edu/transferopenhouse

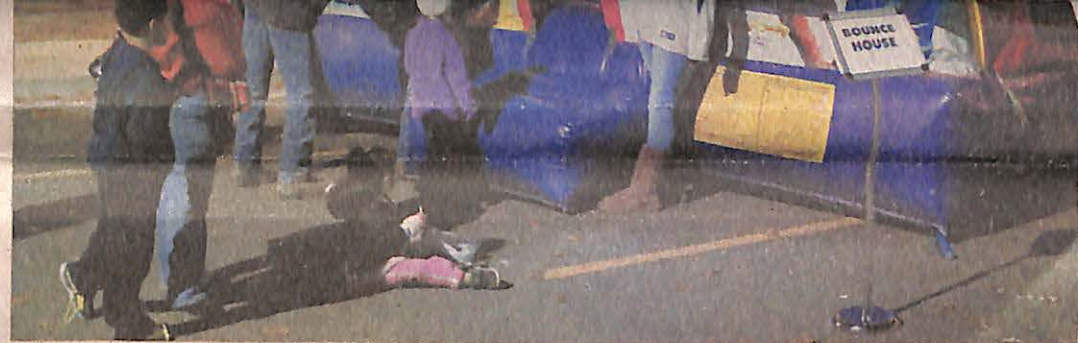
Warrior Scene

Warrior Wonderland



EC PHOTOS

East Central hosted the second annual Warrior Wonderland Friday, Dec. 2, on the campus in Decatur. The celebration of Christmas began after the Decatur Christmas Parade. It kicked off with a fireworks display, and lighting of the East Central Christmas tree by Dr. Billy Stewart. Several ECCC and local musicians performed including Voce and The Collegians. Along with the musical entertainment, there were several kids rides and inflatables, food and drink sponsored by ECCC student clubs and organizations.



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